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Application No. 10/628,574
Amendment dated June 10, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 10, 2005

- REMARKS/ARGUMENTS -

Claims 1 to 23 remain in the application.

The indication that claims 11 to 19 are allowed is greatly appreciated.

102 Claim Rejections

Claims 1 to 7, 10, 20, 21 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Harvey et al. (EP 1054164 A2).

Claims 1 to 5, 20, 21 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Masayoshi (JP 08074808).

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bentley (U.S. Patent No. 1,884,531).

The Examiner has indicated that the desired use recitation "compressor bleed valve" does not add any structure to the claim to distinguish the invention from the prior art being used. Thus, the desired use recitation does not add any patentable weight to the claim.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 20 and 23 to positively recite the compressor bleed valve system components interacting with the claimed actuator to provide new and advantageous ways of controlling compressor surge in gas turbine engines and the like.

This new combination of inventive characterizing features is not disclosed or suggested by any of the above-mentioned cited references.

Compressor surge bleed valve "BOV" actuators are generally two-positioned (open/closed). A controlling compressor surge bleed valve with a variable multi-position actuator is unusual. BOV actuators are generally very complex in manufacture and operation, requiring numerous parts which are responsive to complex signals relying on numerous compressor feedback measurements. BOV technology is leaning in this direction and one has to bear this in mind when asking what a man skilled in the art would have done to solve the problem. It could not

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reasonably be assumed that a man skilled in the art would go outside of the art of issue and in a direction opposite to the evolution of the technology to arrive at the Applicant's invention.

In view of the foregoing, independent apparatus claims 1 and 20 are clearly patentable over the cited references.

Independent claim 20 has been rewritten as a method of setting an intermediate position of a compressor search bleed valve via the operation of an actuator. None of the cited references is concerned with this particular problem and, as such, none of them proposes a solution thereto. Accordingly, method claim 23 is also clearly patentable over the art of record.

It is submitted, therefore, that claims 1 to 23 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections is respectfully requested.

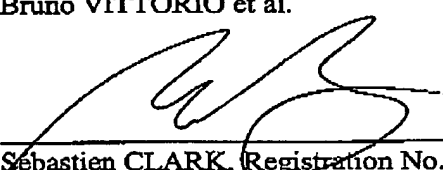
In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruno VITTORIO et al.


By:

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Date


Sebastien CLARK, Registration No. 56651
Agent of Record
OGILVY RENAULT LLP
1981 McGill College Avenue, #1600
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 2Y3
Tel.: (514) 847-4297

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Signature	<u>June 9, 2005</u> Date